

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
December 6, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCE
and call-in audio: (916) 573-2034
Conference ID: 703617275#

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board
Kathleen Fitzpatrick, City of La Quinta (*Chairwoman*)
Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs (*Vice Chairman*)
Beatriz Gonzalez, State Assembly Appointee
Kathleen Kelly, City of Palm Desert
Richard Kim, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sally Lukenbill, Department of Finance
Reid Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County
Greg Sanders, City of Indian Wells
Andrea Scharffer, Natural Resources Agency
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee
Christopher Tracy, University of California, Riverside
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee
Ted Weill, City of Rancho Mirage
Dennis Woods, City of Palm Springs

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elaine Holmes, City of Indio
Megan Jacinto, City of Coachella
Rita Lamb, City of Cathedral City
Steve Quartieri, California State Parks

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Karpiak, Executive Director
Kerrie Godfrey, Associate Director
Abriana Elms, Staff Services Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Strange, Desert Recreation District

NOTE: The State of California continues to carry out essential business with modifications as needed to maintain physical distancing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with AB 361, signed into law September 16, 2021, meetings may be completely virtual and meeting notices may be updated to reflect the move to telephone or web-based meeting. Meetings still must provide for public observation and input and must still be noticed in advance. This meeting complied with those requirements.

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chairwoman Kathleen Fitzpatrick declared a quorum with 14 voting members present at 3:01 p.m.

2.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments were made.

3.0 Action items – Public Hearing

3.1 Adoption of Resolution 2021-19 approving an amendment to a Proposition 68 local assistance infrastructure grant to the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for improvements at Shumway Ranch.

Jim Karpiak summarized item 3.1 as presented in the staff report. Troy Strange with the Desert Recreation District was also in attendance and available for questions.

Gary Gardner asked if a pit toilet would be a more viable option in terms of cost savings for this project. Jim Karpiak and Troy Strange responded, noting that the option of a pit toilet was discussed and rejected because it would not save that much initially and then would also require more ongoing maintenance and thus would not save money. Ted Weill also commented that the additional \$125k being requested is a miniscule figure to be invested considering all the work; the studies and analyses that have been completed determined this is a necessity. Joan Taylor raised some concerns: first,, Shumway is remote and not large enough to serve large numbers of people, and second, the main value of Shumway is habitat and therefore she is hesitant to spend more money on the project. Kathleen Kelly commented that it is important to remember that this project has already been approved and the board determined that it is worthwhile. The added amount requested is reasonable and funds are available.

Dennis Woods asked Jim about the programming coordination of the site. Jim responded that Shumway Ranch.Org has been working with the arts community having small paint out events and they have future plans to work with other conservation organizations such as the Living Desert, Friends of the Desert Mountains etc. One of the reasons for the restrooms is to facilitate and make it useful for the Conservancy, Authority and Desert Recreation District

to hold programs up there and to possibly rent the site to small groups. Regardless of what Shumway Ranch.org does, there will still be a built-in demand to use the facility. Kathleen Fitzpatrick added that the cost request seems reasonable, as it provides public access. There were no further comments or questions from the board.

A motion was made and seconded (Kelly/Gardner) approving an amendment to a Proposition 68 local assistance infrastructure grant to the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Improvements at Shumway Ranch to increase the grant amount by \$125,000.00. The motion passed with one-member voting no.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Executive Director Update.

Jim Karpiak reported on the following:

- Trails Update- Friday was the Grand Opening of the Long Canyon Trail and was well attended and a great success.
- Future Meetings - per state guidance virtual meetings are set to continue until the end of January. If nothing changes, the March meeting would require in-person attendance. We will try to accommodate a hybrid meeting if possible or at least set up more remote attendance sites to facilitate attendance.

4.2 Board Member comments and reports.

There were no other comments or questions.

5.0 Adjourn to the January 10, 2022, meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kathleen Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:23 pm.